



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Hudson Highlands Land Trust Permanently Protects 57 Acres of Garrison Golf Club Land

Land trust to oversee habitat restoration and develop public access plan with community engagement

The Hudson Highlands Land Trust, Inc. (HHLT) is pleased to announce it has accepted a generous donation of 57 acres of the former Garrison Golf Club land from property owner Chris Davis. Plans to protect this land were first announced in early 2021 after Mr. Davis detailed his vision to decommission the 300-acre golf course in the heart of Garrison. Along with permanently protecting this land, HHLT is overseeing habitat restoration and working with the local community to develop a thoughtful plan for public access. In the interim, HHLT is working to upgrade existing improvements to ensure safe public access and passive recreation. While this work is ongoing, the land is open for non-motorized recreation, such as walking and bird-watching, **at your own risk** and visitors should exercise caution while enjoying the land.

Chris Davis said about the donation: *"I can't think of more trusted or capable organizations than HHLT and the Hudson Valley Shakespeare Festival to work in collaboration as stewards of this wonderful landscape. I'm inspired by their shared vision of ecological restoration and grateful that our community will be able to enjoy this special place for generations to come."*

Katrina Shindledecker, HHLT's Executive Director, added: *"We're grateful for this generous donation and the trust Chris has placed in HHLT to steward this important land in the Hudson Highlands."*

Although parts of the land have been used as a golf course for years, the donated property also includes woodlands, wetlands, and important wildlife habitat. In addition to economic shifts, Mr. Davis noted the heavy ecological impact of maintaining the golf course as a key factor in his vision to return the land to a more natural state. HHLT and Mr. Davis support plans for an extensive restoration project that will enhance wildlife habitat and protect the surrounding watershed.

In recent years, HHLT has led multiple public hikes on the property. Throughout the process of developing the restoration and management plans, HHLT will continue to welcome robust community engagement through public forums and meetings with stakeholder groups.

The community-based approach to stewarding this land builds upon HHLT's experience creating and managing the Granite Mountain Preserve over the past several years. HHLT worked with neighbors and the local community to address use, visitor management, and habitat needs at the Preserve, located in Putnam Valley. And although Granite Mountain Preserve is very different from the Garrison Golf Club land, Ms. Shindledecker said the same thoughtful process will be carried out to maintain the property's ecological values while also offering public access.

The Hudson Valley Shakespeare Festival is slated to donate an additional 17 acres of golf course land to HHLT in 2022. The woodland property runs along Philipse Brook Road, providing a vegetated buffer to the watercourse and significant habitat for multiple species, including bats and dragonflies.

HHLT will continue working with Mr. Davis, the Hudson Valley Shakespeare Festival, and other partners to achieve an integrated habitat restoration plan of the broader golf course property. We are also hoping to pursue partnership opportunities with our new and soon-to-be neighbors.

ABOUT HHLT

The Hudson Highlands Land Trust is a community-based, accredited, non-profit conservation organization with a mission to protect and preserve the natural resources, rural character, and scenic beauty of the Hudson Highlands. HHLT owns and manages Granite Mountain Preserve, a 400+ acre nature preserve in Putnam Valley along with approximately 100 adjoining acres owned by Putnam County. www.hhlt.org

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